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Director's Office

April 20, 2005

Prof. Kevin McFarland
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Dr. Jorge Morfin
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MS 220

Dear Kevin and Jorge,

Thank you for your presentations on MINERvA (E-938) to the Physics Advisory Committee. The Committee made the following comments to me after the April meeting.

"The Committee heard a presentation from MINERvA. The progress in R&D and in costing of the project since the Committee last saw the proposal was impressive. The Committee remains excited about the physics potential of the experiment. However, since the proposal received Stage I approval, the DOE has clarified its methodology for funding such projects. DOE Office of High Energy Physics funding for MINERvA is now expected to come through the Laboratory and cannot be obtained through the University Program. This is both good and bad, as it relieves uncertainties associated with a complex mix of funding sources but places the proposal in more direct competition with other Laboratory projects.

The collaboration has been addressing the optimization of the detector design in response to the recent Director's Review. Budgetary constraints associated with the required funding scenario may need to be included in these considerations. In particular, the total scope and performance of the detector may need to be somewhat reduced as part of this process. This noted, the Committee believes that the physics case for MINERvA remains strong, both as 'engineering' for neutrino oscillation experiments and as basic research in neutrino scattering. The Committee recommends that the Laboratory and the collaboration work towards the timely construction and operation of MINERvA."

As you see, the Committee reconfirmed its support for MINERvA, even in the new funding context, and encouraged us to move forward in a timely way. Organizing the best program of neutrino research with Fermilab's accelerators is critical to the strength of the particle physics program in the US and worldwide. At the same time, funding for this program of

neutrino experiments is extremely tight, and we need to make sure we get as much physics for the investment as possible.

As you are aware, you should work with the Laboratory to develop and implement the plan to clarify the scope and identify the resources required to establish Stage II approval and the mounting of the experiment.

Thanks again for your presentations. We look forward to working with you to get this important experiment built and on the air. Let's keep up the recent momentum.

Sincerely,

Michael Witherell

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